

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following heading and paragraph at page 1, line 2 following the title of the invention and before the Field of the Invention.

**Cross-Reference to Related Applications**

This application claims priority from, and is a divisional of, United States patent application serial number 10/214,273, filed on August 6, 2002 entitled "Tape Drive Leader Connection Sensing Assembly."

In the specification Brief Description of the Drawings Section, please delete the paragraphs starting on page 3, line 24 through page 3, line 25.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 6, line 7 and ending at page 6, line 21 as follows:

Therefore, determining the position of the takeup leader following a disconnection operation is indicative of the disconnection status. Once a disconnection fails, the tape cartridge should not be removed from the tape drive. Removal of the tape cartridge from the tape drive will damage the tape media within the tape cartridge destroying the data previously stored on the tape media. Failure of the tape drive to notify the operator of the failed disconnection results in the operator removing the tape cartridge from the tape drive and thereby damaging the tape media. [[ ]]The sensing assembly may be electrical or electromechanical. ~~In an embodiment the sensing assembly comprises a sensing device located near the tape path for monitoring the position of the takeup leader. When the takeup leader is connected to the tape cartridge leader, the takeup leader is positioned within the tape path. As previously discussed, when the takeup leader and the tape cartridge leader are disconnected, the takeup leader is in contact with or in close proximity to the positioning lever. Thus, a sensing device located on the positioning lever may be used to sense the position of the lever.~~

Please delete the paragraphs beginning at page 6, line 22 through page 7, line 20.